

Naval Air Facility
El Centro, Ca

The Sandpaper

Volume 5, Issue 8

"Pearl of the Desert"

July 2002

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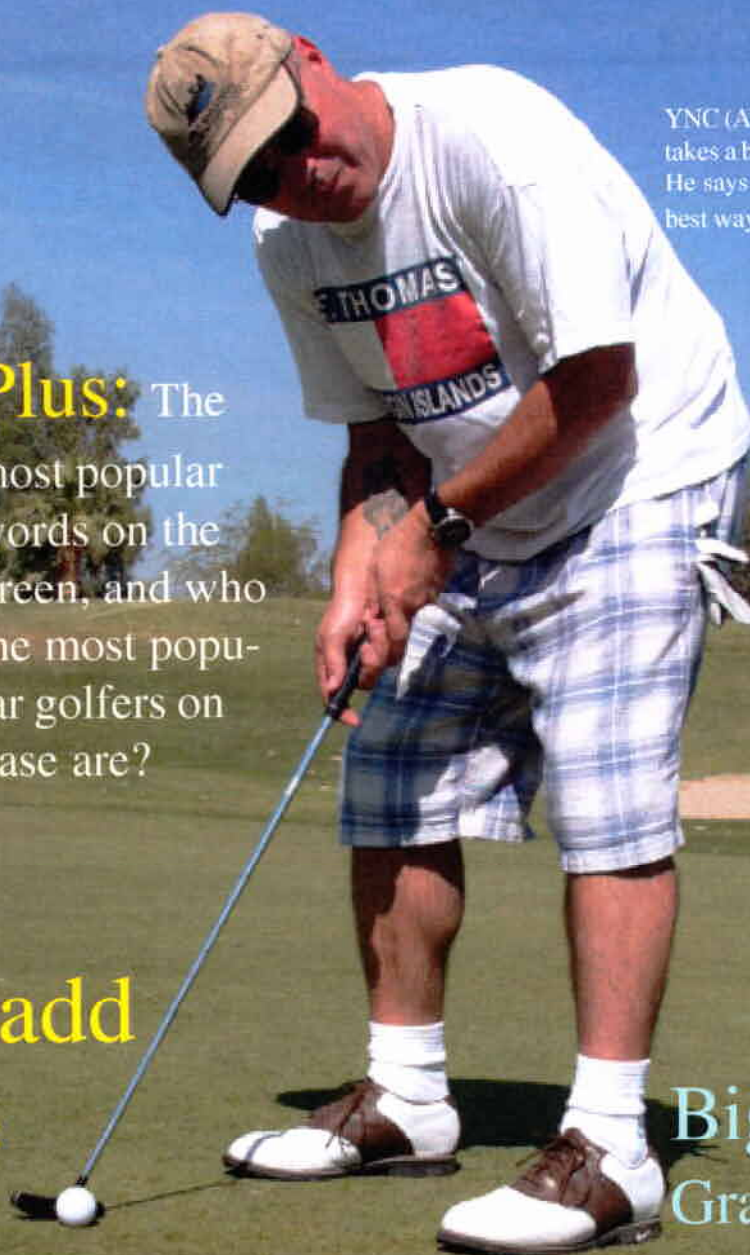
*Navy SEALs land at NAF

NAF's most enjoyed paper

Golf: NAF Tour begins

YNC (AW) Michael Merrick takes a break from the office. He says golf is one of the best ways to relax the mind.

Plus: The most popular words on the green, and who the most popular golfers on base are?



16 Sailors add
new Stripe

First reservists go home

Big
Graduation
day for NAF



By Captain Larry Crane *Commanding Officer*

We just celebrated our nation's 226th birthday last weekend with some great ceremonies. The festivities of Freedom Fest at Imperial Valley College were well attended by the local populace in spite of the threats and warnings we have heard during the past two weeks, and our own attendance was great to see out in the audience. Once again, the NAF El Centro personnel had the lead in honoring our country. The participation in the Flag Passing Ceremony was a topic of much pride by many of the local attendees. Before I could get to my vehicle to come home it seemed like every two or three steps someone was stopping me to say how great our sailors looked. The recipient of the flag this year, Maj. Henry Carter, USMC (ret), was a very worthy recipient. The pride he has in his country, and in his service to his country, can not be understated. He was indeed honored by our tribute to him. The Color Guard was also extremely sharp, and their presentation just before the fireworks is a great lead in for the show.

On 5 July we opened the new waterslide with a "splash". The turnout for the picnic and the opening was superb. People seemed to really enjoy the new slides and kept the lifeguards busy. One thing we need to remember while at the pool, safety is paramount. Running can not be tolerated, as the slippery surface can lead to accidents when people start running and pushing. Please be careful and enjoy our new addition to the base. We will have new rules posted and enforced by the MWR lifeguards. They have a hard job ensuring the safety of our personnel and children, let's not make it harder on them.

Beginning on 10 July, Rear Admiral Betancourt and his Executive Steering Committee (ESC), 35 personnel strong, will visit NAF El Centro. Admiral Betancourt has been the Commander of Navy Region Southwest since February and this will be his first ESC held outside the metro region. I know you will remember your military courtesy, but you need to be aware that a flag officer and approximately 20 other Captains will be aboard. Be aware of what is going on around you.

Since the terrorist attacks on 11 Sep, the security posture for all military bases has changed. Whereas before we would let people on our base to enjoy the Mirage Club or the pools, we do not allow that anymore. If you bring a friend on base, you are responsible for their actions and are to remain with them at all times. I wish to reemphasize our policies because the waterslides would be a big attraction for the people from the local valley. They are NOT authorized users unless invited by a military member and there is a charge for them to utilize the facilities. Please do not promise someone something you will not be able to provide. This is a military establishment and we must follow the rules laid down by our government. Please do your part.

In closing, let me once again emphasize the need to keep your body hydrated. If you are out in the sun, drink water. Alcohol is not the answer; it will help dehydrate you even more. The summer and the triple digit temperatures will be with us for another 2 months, make sure you are ready for them. Be safe and have fun.



The Sandpaper

Commanding Officer

CAPT Larry Crane

Executive Officer

CDR Peter Hayes

Command Master Chief

CMDCM Vince Seay

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Happy to go home

First sigh of relief for first set of reservists returning home

By IT2 Darryl Howlett
Staff Writer

Parting is such sweet sorrow. The first set of reservists recently departed from Naval Air Facility El Centro the last of May.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Petty Officer Audrey Lavoie, Master-At-Arms 3rd Class Petty Officer Armand Patino, and Yeoman 3rd Class Petty Officer Adam Peterson, turned in their security camouflage to return to civilian attire.

After serving for a year in support of Operation Noble Eagle the three NAF reservists were part of the first 800 military personnel to be demobilized and returned to their families, communities, and jobs. "The

vital work accomplished by Naval Reservists provided the time we needed to retrain and commence a wartime realignment of our forces," said VADM Norb Ryan Jr.

All three felt the experience at NAF would help them when they returned back home.

"I feel good going home. This was a very educational experience considering I had no prior active duty time," Patino said. "It was a change going from drilling once a month to working every day. This is something I will look back to years from now and feel proud of."

Patino was activated shortly after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, while Lavoie and Peterson came later in November. "I'm just ecstatic and glad to be going



IT2 Audrey Lavoie and MA3 Armand Patino made one last stop during their checkout procedure by the Public Affairs Office to say goodbye. home," said Lavoie with a sigh of relief.

"Words cannot describe how it feels to be going back to my family," said Peterson. My wife and children are very happy too. In fact they have been praying I come home soon. I feel relief, but I'm proud to have served my

country. Patino will return to Chatsworth, CA., where he works as a U.S. Postal Inspector; Lavoie will return to Dayton, OH, where she works for a government accounting firm; Peterson will return to Anchorage, AK., where he works as a court reporter.

\$15 Million worth



Top: From left to right, LCDR Chuck Lewis, John Anderson, CAPT Larry Crane, Mayor Larry Grogan, Cathy Harper, LT Phillip Lavalle, and Kenny Kubiak. Below: Before the Ground Breaking ceremony took place, Public Works Officer LCDR Chuck Lewis explains the new project to invited guests.



At approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday June 20, NAF El Centro celebrated the commencement of the new Transient Barrack Project during a Ground Breaking Ceremony on base. At a cost of more than \$15 million dollars, the project will add 160 rooms to Bachelor Housing. The barracks will include a tennis court, a volleyball court, and a lighted basketball court. Completion is expected within a year.

Drug Education for Youth (DEFY)

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

For the past three years AOC (AW) Jeffrey Elliot has been coordinating the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) program which takes place aboard Naval Air Facility El Centro.

The purpose of the program is to prevent children from getting into drugs. During the two-week course students learn how to make wise decisions when presented with peer pressure. They also learn team-building skills and are prompted to solve

conflicts that may arise when confronted with real life situations. "This is a great program. Preventing our children from turning to drugs will safeguard the future of this country," said Elliot. "The promise of tomorrow's leaders begins with our children. By reducing drug abuse, we secure for future generations the dream upon which our nation was founded."

Volunteers, who participate as mentors, run the two-week camp. According to Chief Elliot they are always in need of more mentors to help run the program. Children ages 9 through 12 are eligible to sign up at no cost. Besides learning about drug prevention students are involved with physical exercises, field trips, and other fun activities.

The program runs July 8 through July 18. For more information contact Chief Elliot at (760) 339-2602.



Mo Money Sailors add stripe to their uniform

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Aboard Naval Air Facility El Centro more responsibility has been assigned to some Sailors who were recently frocked to second and third class petty officers during the month of June.

Since taking the advancement exam in

departments. "I was so happy and excited especially now that I don't have to go overseas as an Airman," said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Petty Officer Nicole Miller, who will transfer to Sigonella, Italy, in October of this year.

The Weapons Department alone had six Sailors advance to Third and two Sailors

you exposure in the Navy."

Although they won't get paid immediately, for husband and wife Misty and Jacob Darden who advanced to Third and Second, the added income will be good especially that a new baby is on the way. "I was like, wow," Misty said. "I was shocked that both of us made it, but we were very glad."



March, it has been a long wait, but after the results came out in early June, for 16 Sailors at NAF, their hard work and dedication paid off. After completing Petty Officer Indoctrination where the principals of leadership, core values, and Naval History were given to them, they were promoted to their respective ranks during different frocking ceremonies held by their

advance to Second Class Petty Officers making a total of 25 percent of that department. "This is the last function as XO at this command," said CDR Brian Wild at the ceremony. "This is a great deal for me," he added. "Now you have a new responsibility. Leadership is now part of your everyday life. The stripe doesn't automatically make you smarter, but it gets

On June 6, Strike Fighter also frocked six Sailors to Third Class Petty Officers. As they stood at attention at the Strike hangar, Officer in Charge, LT Richard Braunbeck congratulated his Sailors and thanked them for a job well done. Two other Sailors, one belonging to Branch Medical and one belonging to the Weather Department, were also advanced.

Weapons

AO2 Benjamin Cross
AO2 Jacob T. Darden
AO3 Misty M. Darden
AO3 Kelly A. Ehlers
AO2 Julie M. Maurer
AO3 Nicole M. Miller
AO2 Emerald L. Quiver
AO3 Brandy Watson

Newly Promoted Sailors

Strike

AME3 Jonathan A. Carruthers
AO3 Joshua A. Brister
AM3 Jerry G. Hammack
AO3 Donald V. Lieslie
ATO3 Gerald L. Moritz Jr
AE3 Patrick R. Pinan

Operations

AC1 Jason Anton
AZ3 Tracy B. Mummert

Weather

AG3 Bobbie L. McClain

Medical

HM3 Rosemary Galvan



Far left: Strike OIC LT Braunbeck Salutes newly selected Petty Officer Jerry Hammack. Left: The Weapons Frocking ceremony was Executive Officer CDR Brian Wild's last official ceremony. Above: Newly frocked Husband and Wife Misty and Jacob Darden with their daughter Splendid.



Goodbye Chaplain Hougesen, and RP1 Hair

By IT2 Darryl Howlett

Staff Writer

It seemed only fitting that the two retired from the Navy on the same day. Residents at Naval Air Facility El Centro made sure that Base Chaplain LCDR Bruce Hougesen and Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Petty Officer Eric Hair received a heartfelt goodbye.

Over 70 people attended Protestant morning worship June 4 in the last worship service for LCDR Hougesen and RP1 Hair.

Fellow chaplains, friends, and officers spoke highly of the dedication of LCDR Hougesen.

"Chaplain Hougesen has had a faithful and fruitful ministry," said retired Naval Chaplain CAPT Stan Beach. "Bruce had a compassion for people and was moved with concerns of people. What drives him is his character. Bruce went from being a Line Officer after graduating from the Naval Academy to become a chaplain. That's not an easy thing. He went from a ship driver to become a



sheep driver and shepherd. He felt right at home whether it was on the bridge of a ship or behind a pulpit."

CAPT Jessie Tate, Chaplain, Naval Region Southwest, spoke of LCDR Hougesen's commitment to NAF El Centro.

"When I first met Bruce, I was thoroughly impressed with his commitment to the Lord and his commitment to you," he said. "He's one of the finest chaplains I've ever worked with. In my opinion, he's the best in the Southwest Region. I honestly believe that Chaplain Hougesen

goes in the strength of the Lord."

CAPT Larry Crane, Commanding Officer NAF El Centro, said LCDR Hougesen came at just the right time to the base. "When I got here over two-and-a-half years ago, there was about a six-month gap in between chaplains," he said. "I had a big concern about who would be our chaplain, but then Bruce showed up. Our congregation did go down significantly during the gap. No one could bring them back but the Chaplain. If you look at the scripture on the cover of the morning worship service brochure, Jeremiah 33:3, it reads,



Chaplain Hougesen and RP1 Hair receive a going away plaque prior to their departure.

"That's what is in store for Chaplain Hougesen."

Chaplain Hougesen thanked the parishioners for their love and support.

"I've enjoyed my times with the Marines and Sailors on ships and my time here with you. I've had fun," he said. "Please continue to support the base chapel and the services that it provides."

RP1 Hair had little to say that day, but residents said they would remember Hair for his support of Chaplain Hougesen, his ping-pong skills, and his devotion to his dogs, especially his three-legged dog, Tripod.

RP1 Hair said he plans on living his retired life off the Pacific Ocean in Baja, Mexico.

When the morning worship services concluded, Chaplain Hougesen and RP1 Hair received a going away and retirement luncheon in the chapel's fellowship room.

Best bargains are on base

By Ada Vanderweele

Thrift Shop Supervisor

Hidden in what looks more like a warehouse than a store is a place where Sailors and their families can find the best bargains in town.

The NAF Thrift Shop (Not Navy Relief) is located in building 115 at the corner of 3rd and A Street. It has been in operation since January 2002. Solely run by volunteers, all profits are



Tami Anderson recently took over as Thrift Shop Supervisor. Above she is stocking some newly arrived donations.

used to benefit military families on base. The main purpose of the Thrift Shop is to provide active duty members and their families an inexpensive place to purchase needed items. All items are donated from many sources including many items that are new. At the Thrift Shop customers will find great prices on clothing, uniforms, and electronic equipment. The bigger items do not last more than a day, or two, so if you are a bargain shopper it is a



great idea to come and visit often. Stock changes weekly due to donations. If you would like to drop off a donation we have a 24-hour drop box in front of our building. Hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information call 339-2228. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.



From left to right, Commissary employees Myrna Pascua, Marty Pavao, scholarship winner, Gabrielle Pascua, Elsa Garcia, and Mary Ratliff.

Imperial student wins \$ 1500 Commissary Scholarship

By J02 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

Miss Gabrielle Pascua of Imperial, the daughter of Frank and Aurora Pascua, retired Navy Chief, was the winner of this year's El Centro Commissary Scholarship sponsored by Kellogg's. The Scholarships for Military Children program made its debut in 2001, awarding 400 scholarships to graduating high school or college-enrolled students in four-year degree programs.

The scholarships are open to qualified sons and daughters of U.S. military members to include active duty, retirees, and Guard and Reserve. Minimum requirements are a 3.0 grade point average, leadership, leadership activities, and a written essay. the subject of this year's essay was how the applicant's community activities have enriched his or her community.

Miss Pascua graduated from Imperial High School and will attend Imperial Valley College next semester.

"Kiiaap" Don't mess with me!

Frederico Lewis age 6 recently signed up for Tae kwon do lessons at the base Gymnasium. The class is taught by Black Belt Instructor Brian Rhee. For more information on MWR sponsored activities call 339-2481

Clinic Celebrates Hospital Corps Anniversary

By HM2 Francisco Castellano
Medical Dept.

June 17th, 2002 marked the 104th anniversary of the Hospital Corps. Throughout the Hospital Corps's history, Corpsmen have left a legacy of courage under fire. Until the Vietnam era, Corpsmen bore no arms but this did not stop them from displaying their commitment for saving lives in the face of adversity. There have been 22 Hospital Corpsmen Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, some of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Wherever you find a fellow shipmate, be it a Sailor or Marine, you will find a Hospital Corpsman. Even today, not only do Corpsmen serve on the steel deckplates conducting operations in Afghanistan, but



HMC Mass and HM3 Galvan carry out the old time tradition of having the junior and senior Corpsman cut the birthday cake.

also on the front line with Marine ground combat units. These men and women deserve our thanks, so if you happen to catch a fellow Corpsman, be sure to wish him or her a Happy Birthday.

Final Inspection

By Pattie Crew
Housing Office

School is out, summer is here! This is the Housing Department's busiest time of the year for PCS transfers. Although we have mentioned the procedures in previous articles we would like to touch on the basic steps to ensure a smooth transition.

Thirty days prior to transfer fill out Intent to Vacate form, along with a copy of your orders, at the Housing Office and arrange pack-out date. We will schedule a pre-inspection with the contractor to see what kind of maintenance repairs will be necessary for the Change of Occupancy. We will also give you the cleaning requirements if you choose to do it yourself and a list of Housing approved contract cleaners if you'd rather pay someone to clean your house after you've vacated.

The Pre-Inspection takes about 30-45

minutes to complete. You do not have to have anything cleaned at that time. We are merely looking for maintenance items that need to be repaired after you've moved out. If you've noticed any needed maintenance prior to the inspection, just make a list for the inspection.

For the **Final Inspection**, you will need to have everything out of the house and completely cleaned, yard and all. You should have a broom, cleaning rag and cleanser, etc. on hand for final clean-ups during the inspection.

If you would like the inspector to walk through the house with you a day prior to your final inspection, just give us a call and it can be arranged. This way, you will be ready on inspection day with no surprises. We want to make your move as simple as possible. If you have any questions feel free to ask.

If you prefer to have a Contract Cleaner for your house, we have the list of names and phone numbers. Some of the contractors do not do the yards; so you need to find out up front if the one you chose does the complete package. Otherwise, you will need to do the yard yourself and be inspected prior to leaving or have someone else do your yard.

Moving time is a busy and frustrating time for everyone. Please ask questions so we can assist you with your needs.

Housing's new telephone number is 760 339-2920, fax: 760 339-2930, DSN: 658. Take care of yourselves and take care of your shipmates!



**May Yard of the Month****Officer Category**

LTJG Glenn Archambault Family

**Senior Enlisted Category**

ABE2 Robert Hernandez Family

**Junior Enlisted Category**

SPC Francisco Soto Family

Desert Dolphins continue to kick a splash

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

It seemed the entire base followed the Desert Dolphins to their first swim meet, which took place in Yuma, AZ, on June 11.

With 36 first places in all four strokes, it was a great victory for the Dolphins first meet. "We did very well," said Coach Nickie Lopez. "Yuma is a year round team and we are only a summer recreation team. All the training the Dolphins have received showed at the meet. I was very impressed by all the kids."

The enthusiasm was not only visible in the swimmers, but also by the great participation of all the parents and family members who attended to support of the Dolphins. "This is very fun and exciting," said Navy wife Tami Anderson whose son Tyler age



6 took a 1st place for backstroke and two 2nd places for freestyle and breaststroke, and son Cameron age 5 left with three third places for butterfly, breast and freestyle strokes. "As a parent it makes you thrilled to see the kids out there swimming. It doesn't matter if they win or not. You get excited

simply because they are part of the event."

At the following meets in Brawley and Mexicali the excitement grew even more as the Dolphins continued adding more medals to the team. From the smallest to the oldest Dolphin this season promises to be a great success for NAF.

The Role of Child Protective Services

By Dr. Flowers*NAF Family Advocacy Representative*

The role of Child Welfare Services was the topic discussed during the June Family Advocacy Committee meeting at the Mirage Club on June 4.

Child Welfare Services provides intervention services to children in California who are abused, neglected, or exploited. Child Protective Services (CPS) performs this critical mission for the Imperial Valley. Their goal is to keep the child in the home when it is safe to do so. When the child is at risk, CPS takes immediate action for alternate placement.

CPS worker Mr. Florentino Olivas was the guest speaker for this month's meeting. He said that CPS receives referrals of suspected child abuse victims from schools, hospitals, paramedics, policemen, neighbors, and from people who wish to remain anonymous.

To report a Child abuse incident call 337-7750. CPS workers will answer and respond to these calls. California law defines child

abuse as any one of the following:

1. A child is physically injured by other than accidental means.
2. A child is subjected to willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment.
3. A child is abused or exploited sexually.
4. A child is neglected by a parent or caretaker who fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision.

CPS provides services when a report of child abuse reveals the need for intervention. Goals are established for the child and for the family. Approximately one year of services are provided when children are able to remain in the home while the family receives services.

Sometimes children require placement outside of the home in order to be safe from abuse and neglect. In these cases, children and their families are provided up to 18 months of services. Ideally, reunification with the family will eventually be possible. When the child cannot be returned to the family, CPS takes action to provide a family like living arrangement for the child.



Florentino Olivas from Child Protective Services talks to NAF's Department heads about the role of CPS.

CPS provides funding for many services to assist children and their parents. Some of these programs include anger management, crisis intervention, drug testing, emergency shelter, individual and family counseling, parenting instruction, teaching and demonstrating homemakers, and transportation necessary to receive needed services.

Contact Dr. Flowers, NAF El Centro Family Advocacy Representative, at 339-2241 for further information regarding services available for military families.



Big graduation day for NAF

By JO2 Carmichael Yeppez

Editor

Smiles, cheers and applause filled the atmosphere at the Mirage Club, the Base Theatre, and Seeley Elementary during the graduation ceremonies that took place during the month of May and June.

The auditoriums were full to max capacity as the students one by one were called to receive their graduation certificates. At the base theatre on June 14, with cameras recording and picture cameras flashing, proud parents were excited to see their sons and daughters walk to the stage. "That's my daughter," exclaimed one mother at the base theatre after hearing her daughter had made Honor Roll.

Electronic Technician Chief Bill Toole and wife Lucia were proud to hear when their son Steven was presented with the "American Legion Citizens Award" by the American Legion Post 25 for Courage, Honor and Leadership. "I was surprised to learn he received this award. I had no prior knowledge," said Toole. "I'm proud of him."

On May 30, it appeared the Navy Ball was about to take place, but in fact it was the graduation ceremony for the children of the Child Development Center. Standing only three feet tall, the new



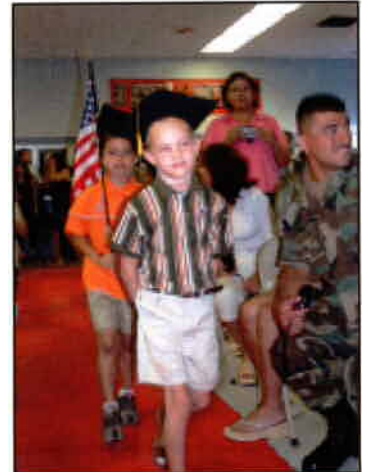
graduates were presented to the audience. Then, directed by their teachers, they proceeded by singing the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a series of songs like Brown Bear, Brown Bear and many more. Commanding Officer CAPT Larry Crane then recognized some of the Child Development Home Providers concluding the ceremony by presenting the nine CDC graduates with their diplomas.

Perhaps the greatest excitement occurred during the Kindergarten graduation ceremony at Seeley Elementary where the greatest number of NAF students graduated

"It was exciting. It was a big step for them," said Electronics Technician 1st Class Petty Officer (SW/AW) Michael Manning

whose daughter's Heidi and Heather, ages 5 and 7, graduated that day. While parents waited anxiously for their sibling's name to be called, the small cafeteria kept filling up as more people arrived. By the time the ceremony commenced, the place was so packed it was almost impossible to take a close-up photo of the children. Only bobbing heads could be seen when parents were trying to get a better glance at their child. The room was filled with excitement and happy faces from parents whose little ones had graduated.

The young ones weren't the only ones celebrating the completion of a new phase. On June 14, at a graduating ceremony that took place in Coronado, CA, 11



Left: CDC children at the Mirage Club. Top: Walking down the aisle at Seeley Elementary. Above: Junior High School students at the base theatre

students from NAF received their Associates degrees from Vincennes University. "I feel a sense of accomplishment and relief that a chapter in my life is closed," said Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Petty Officer John English.

"I have accomplished something that I started back in 1993," said Aviation Ordinance Chief Jeffrey Elliott. "It took a while, but it is done. Now I will start on my Bachelor's in Business Management."

Strike Wins 1st Place

By JO2 Carmichael Yeppez

Editor

June 6th was probably one of the happiest days of the year for the Sailors at Strike Fighter Wing Maintenance Unit (SFMU). In the beginning of the final game they were losing, but in an outstanding comeback they took the championship winning 10-7 over Bos Ice taking 1st place in the 2002 Captain's Cup Softball championship game.

A total of nine teams adding

up to 187 participants formed part of this year's softball tournament, which commenced April 2nd. From the beginning, each game kept spectators on their toes cheering and throwing their hands up in the air every time the bat made contact with the ball. With every run, and every out the excitement could be heard across the base until one by one the group of nine teams dwindled down to the final game. First Place went to SFMU, 2nd to Boss Ice and 3rd place to Khakis.





Take the Challenge Aerobics



Monday
and
Wednesdays

at the base Gym

6:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Flat Tail Drop Zone

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

Jets and helicopters aren't the only ones that land at NAF. On board NAF El Centro there's a special school where some of the Navy's best-trained men and women come to train to become Static Line Master Jumpers.

At the Naval Special Warfare Center, Sailors and other military members from different services come for a three-week training course to become Jump Masters trained by Navy SEALs. "We are the school house for all the SEAL teams on the West Coast," said, Instructor, Navy SEAL, Engineman Chief Jerry Brown. "But SEALs aren't the only ones we train," he said. "We do a lot of joint and inter-

service training also."

According to Brown, when students show up for the course, they are already experienced

jumpers. "The students are here to become Jump Masters, so when they go back to their teams they can run their parachute teams safely."

During the first two weeks of instruction most of the course takes place in the classroom. On the third week students board a C-

2, or a C-12, and ten-minute plane ride to a place dubbed the "Flat Tail Drop Zone" for the endangered lizard that is common to the Valley. The drop zone is near the Mexican border by Mount Signal. Here, instructors and safety personnel patiently wait under the desert sun for the students to land. When the plane passes at an altitude of 1500 feet, within a few seconds small dots appear in the sky and little by little they become bigger as the jumpers approach the ground. "It is very exciting jumping out here," said, Officer In Charge, CWO Robert McMeans. "The view out here is great."

The instructors are headquartered in San Diego and after each period of instruction return to San Diego for a period of five weeks. An estimated 70 students pass through the school a year.



Top: CAPT Crane orders a Carne Asada plate. Bottom: LT Braunbeck goes down under.

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

The Navy Ball Committee lead by newly promoted LTJg Bob Stiles from the Public Works Department is having a very successful campaign raising money for this year's Navy Ball. "If things keep going at the rate they are, we are doing good," said Stiles. "We've had tremendous participation in all the fund raising activities. I would like to thank both the Navy Ball Committee personnel for their hard



Above: Ashley Cleary counts the days earnings after a successful car wash. Top right: AO1 Jay Bauer sends LT Braunbeck below. Right: AME3 Carruthers and AT3 Hamilton finish the last details at the car wash.

work, and all the people for their tremendous participation in all our fund raising events."

Each car wash averages between \$200.00 to \$300.00. The Navy Ball car wash is held every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Other fund raising activities include the Dunk Tank, Crispy Kreme Doughnut sales, Pizzam, Carne Asada and Hot Dog sales, and civilian clothing chits on Fridays. Dunk Tank event is held

on Thursday from 11: a.m. to 1: p.m. in front of the Mirage Club. Orders for Crispy Kreme doughnuts are taken during the week and delivered on Monday mornings. Food and soda sales are held during swim meets held on base. To date almost two thousand have been raised. Their goal is to reach ten thousand before October. For information on how to participate in a fund raising activity contact a Navy Ball representative.





Spending time

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

For the past couple of months both Sailors and civilians have been spending some time on the greens honing their golf skills at the Rio Bend golf course resort.

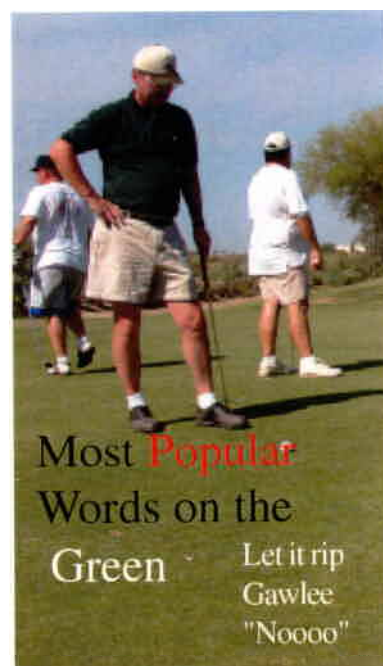
From the most experienced golfer to the newest beginner, the Rio Bend slopes have become a place where camaraderie serves as a therapy for relaxation and some time away from the daily work routine.

A total of 11 teams with six players each signed up this year

to play in the league, which runs from April to September, for a total of 21 weeks. Playing a straight stroke points are calculated by using the two lowest scores including the handicap each week. In the end, the team with the most points will be crowned top team. According to Christi McGovern, Golf Coordinator for the NAF tour, this has been one of the best seasons for NAF. "Everyone is having a great time," she said. "Whether people know how to play the game, or are just learning, golf is an excellent sport to play. We have

66 people who signed up this season, which is very good compared to last year. This year is also the year we've had the most female players, with nine playing this year."

Golf is a game that involves strategy, patience, and perseverance, which is probably the reason why many people have not gotten into golf yet, but once they start it can become addictive. "If you never played, don't start," said LT Michael Conn, Security Officer for NAF. And that was the case for the newest player in the league, LTJG





on the Green

Ernuel Miranda, Supply Officer. He probably learned every word not in the dictionary before he could start hitting the ball and was becoming very frustrated because he saw no future in the game. But after some advice, and some practice, his stroke began to improve and now he is hooked. "It was frustrating at first," said Miranda. "I learned that there's a lot involved with golf. You have to think where you want the ball to go, where you want to hit it, and you have to know about the wind and stuff like that. I think that's what I like about the game

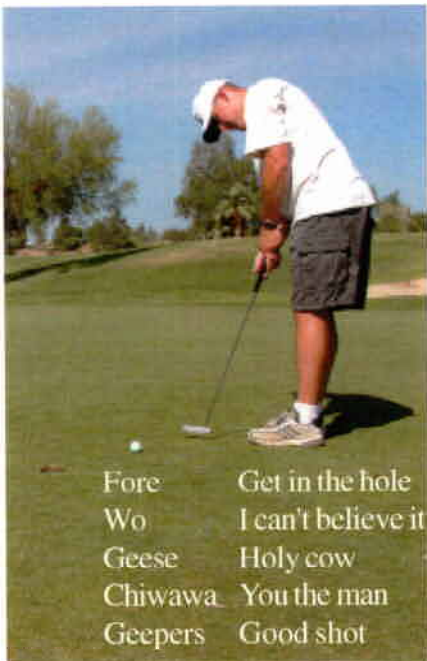
the most, you clear your mind about all the stuff you have at work. Like everything, with practice you keep getting better."

A more veteran player, Ed Cooney from Public Works says sooner or later if you stick with it, it will work for you. "The key is to keep practicing."

"Golf is a sport you can take with you to the grave," said McGovern. You can play by yourself, or just show up at the golf course and meet up with other people."

By the end of July, the golf season will be at mid point, which

means NAF personnel still have plenty of time to add points to their game. There is no doubt that only one team will be crowned top team. But in the end they will all be winners, because the object of the game is to learn new skills, new strategies, and best of all, make friends. "My favorite part of the game is the 19th hole," said CAPT Larry Crane. "This is where you sit down and talk to your buddies about your game."



Fore Get in the hole
Wo I can't believe it
Geese Holy cow
Chiwawa You the man
Geepers Good shot



Photos by JO2 Carmichael Yopez.



Whose who in Golf

Newest Golfers

LTJG Ernuel Miranda
AO2 Tanya McCarlson
Ashley Cleary
Oldest Golfer
Ed Gamble
Power Hitters
LT John Kline
AO1 Jay Bauer
Laurie Bauer
AO1 John Cleary
Best All Around Player

AO2 Dennis Abela
Most Popular Player at the 19th hole

CAPT Larry Crane
Most Funny Players
ABFCS Craig Canady
Jerry Ferdinand
Juan Velix
Slowest Players
LT Michael Conn
Ed Cooney
Ed Gamble
Willie Green

Best Dressed
ABFCS Craig Canady
AOC James Sanchez
Laurie Bauer

Juan Velix
Best Putter
CAPT Larry Crane
YN1 James Woreley
Lowest Score

AO2 Dennis Abela
Laurie Bauer
Jay Underwood
Worst Golf Cart Drivers
AT3 Brian Rogers
AE3 Patrick Pinan





AC2 Raul Suarez received a Good Conduct Medal.



AC3 Barbara Ford received a Good Conduct Medal.



AOAA Lee Pepper was selected as JSOM.



AC2 Alan O'Toole received a Good Conduct Medal.

Attention to Quarters

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Quarters was held on June 20 at the base theatre. After the presentation of awards, CAPT Crane congratulated the new advanced Petty Officers, and welcomed the new Sailors arriving to NAF.

The Skipper encouraged all departments to initiate a training program for Sailors to do well in the advancement exams. "Hit the books," he said to Sailors. "Departments we need to push our troops to do well."

Other topics CAPT Crane covered were attrition and reenlistment rates. He mentioned how more Sailors are choosing to stay because of better advancement rates, educa-

tional opportunities, and SRBs. Another topic the Skipper discussed was the new Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). "I wish they would of had this program back in my days," he said. "So if you have an opportunity, look it over and give it some thought. It is a good program."

Before departing he talked about Global Terrorism and the importance of our troops that are deployed. "Seventy-eight U.S. Ships and 127 from other countries have deployed to CENTCOM," he said. "We must remember how important the job is they're doing, but also keep in mind; their initial training has been completed here."

Welcome Aboard



From left to right:
IS2 Timothy Souza (Security)
DKSN Erica Madrid (PSD)
HM3 Preston Stillman (Medical)
RP2 (SW) Leslie Williams
(Admin/Chaplain's Office)
AO2 (AW) Richard Hort (Weapons)

Congratulations to the following Graduates



Vincennes University

HM3 William Blair
AD1 John English
AO3 Holli Guel
Ahn Manning
DK3 Jibyon Rhee
AOC Jeffrey Elliott
AOAN Tschetan Esser
Eduardo Lopez
AFCM Joseph Radeker
AME3 Salvador Rivas
William Stephens

CDC

Cameron Anderson
John Des-Enfants
Lawrence Douglas
Austin Frey
Splendyd Garcia
Peter "PJ" Hayes
Isabelle Najera
Morgan Salazar
Samantha Stickell

New Bars for Public Works



In two separate ceremonies during the month of July two officers, LT Chuck Lewis was promoted to LCDR, and Ensign Robert Stiles was promoted to LTJG.